

NOTE ii THE MARRIAGE OF THE ROMAN GODS

Majestas.¹ In saying so he may have intended to correct what he believed to be a mistake of his predecessor L. Cincius. Again³ that Salacia was the wife of Neptune is perhaps implied by Varro,² and is positively affirmed by Seneca, Augustine, and Servius.³ Again, Ennius appears to have regarded Hora as the wife of Quirinus, for in the first book of his Annals he declared his devotion to that divine pair.⁴ In fact, of the five pairs of male and female deities cited by Aulus Gellius from the priestly books and ancient speeches the only one as to which we have not independent evidence that it consisted of a husband and wife is Saturn and Lua; and in regard to Lua we know that she was spoken of as a mother,⁵ which renders it not improbable that she was also a wife. However, according to some very respectable authorities the wife of Saturn was not Lua, but Ops,⁶ so that we have two independent lines of proof that Saturn was supposed to be married.

Lastly, the epithets "father" and "mother" which the Romans bestowed on many of their deities * are most naturally understood

¹ Macrobius, Saturn, i. 12. 18. See the passage cited above, p. 232, note³.

³ Varro, De lingua Latina, v. 72, "Salacia Neptuni a salo" This was probably one of the cases which Varro had in his mind when he stated that the ancient Roman gods were married.

³ Augustine, De civitate Dei, vii. 22, "j'ai) utique habebat Salaciam Nepl units uxorem"; Servius, on Virgil, Aen. x. 76, "Sane hanc Veniliam qitidam Salaciam acdpiunt^ Neptuni •itxorem" As for Seneca's evidence see above, p. 231, note³.

⁴ Nonius Marcellus, De compendiosa doctriua, p. 125, ed. L. Quicherat (Paris, 1872), "• Hora jitventutis dea* Ennius Annali^itm~\ lib* L \Tcque,~\ Quirine pater > veneror,

Horamque Quirini"

^u Livy, viii. I. 6, xlv. 33. 2.

^o Festus, p. 186, ed. C. O.

Miller,

"Qpima spolia, dicuntur originem

quidem trahentia ab Ope Saturni

itxore" ; id., p. 187, "Op is dicta

fonjux Saturni "; Macrobius, SaturnaL

i. 10. 19, "Plane autem deam Opem

Salurn i conjugem crediderunt, et idea

hoc mcns Saturnalia itcmque Opalia

cdebrari) quod Saturnus cjusque uxor

tam fnigum quam frttctuum repertoires

essc creduntur." Varro couples Saturn

and Ops together (De lingua Latina^

v. 57, "Principes in Laiio Saturnus

et Ops"; compare id., v. 64), but

without expressly affirming them to be husband and wife. Professor G.

Wissowa, however, argues that the male partner (he would not say husband) of Ops was not Saturn but

Census. See G. Wissowa, "Deferiis

anni Romanorum vetustissimi observationes selectae" reprinted in his Gcsan-

melte Abhandlingen zur romischen

Religions- und Stadtgeschichte (Munich,

1904), pp. 156-157. His view is accepted

by Mr. W. Warde Fowler (Roman

Festivals of the Period of the Republic',

p. 212; The Religious Experience of

the Roman People, p. 482).

⁷ Lactantius, Divin³ Instit.

iv. Itaque et Jupiter a precantibus

vocaliter, et Saturnus et Janus,

Liber et ceteri deinceps quod Lucilius

in deorum consilio irridet:

Ut nemo sit nostrum, quin mtt

pater optimus divum Ut Neptunus pater. Liber,

Saturnus pater i Mars, Janus Quirinus

pater nonien dicatur aditum."

Compare Aulus Gellius, v. 12.

5; Servius, on Virgil, Georg. ii.

4. Roman goddesses who

received the title of Mother were Vesta,

Earth, Ops, Matuta, and Lua. As to

Mother Vesta see The Magic Art and

the Evolution of Aesthetics, ii. 229; as to

Mother Earth see II. Dessau,

Inscriptiones